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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**7 IN SALISBURY AREA INDICTED IN ORGANIZED CRIME
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACIES**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Ronald Lamont Seldon, age 28, and Edwina Charlene Harmon, age 35, both of Odenton, Maryland; and Sylvia Ann Harmon, age 62, Derrick Lamont Shrieves, age 30, and Yvonne Louise Seldon, age 57, all of Salisbury, Maryland, for crimes arising from a 7 year conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base ("crack") and money laundering offenses.

On July 13, 2000 Ronald Seldon was stopped by law enforcement for speeding. Drugs and money were found hidden in the car. This incident triggered the almost 3 year investigation of the defendants' alleged operation of a major drug organization on Maryland's Eastern Shore which allegedly generated millions of dollars in drug profits.

On March 13, 2003 Ronald Seldon was arrested at his home in Odenton, Maryland. On March 14, 2003, Shrieves was arrested in Prince Georges County, Maryland. The following items were recovered at the residences or other locations associated with the defendants: approximately 1.7 kilograms of cocaine base, approximately 725 grams of cocaine hydrochloride, related drug

paraphernalia-including cooking, cutting and packaging materials and money counting machines, 3 handguns, approximately \$142,882 and jewelry valued in excess of \$130,000. Shrieves, E. Harmon and Y. Seldon surrendered to the United States Marshals Service today and S. Harmon is expected to surrender tomorrow.

The 14-count Seldon indictment returned on May 22, 2003 charges Ronald Seldon and Shrieves with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute multiple kilograms of crack and cocaine hydrochloride in the Salisbury, Maryland area between 1996 and 2003. The indictment alleges that Ronald Seldon obtained the drugs for distribution and together with Shrieves distributed 50 grams or more of crack during the 7 year conspiracy. Ronald Seldon and Shrieves allegedly used various locations to store the drugs, including hidden compartments within vehicles and furniture.

Defendants E. Harmon, S. Harmon and Y. Seldon are alleged to have engaged in financial and monetary transactions, including the purchase of automobiles and homes, to disguise and conceal proceeds of the drug offenses. These defendants are charged with conspiracy to launder monetary instruments arising from the conspiracy to distribute the drugs.

A second indictment was also returned on May 22, 2003 by the federal grand jury arising from this investigation. The 6 count indictment charges Jermaine Wallace, age 25 of Salisbury, Maryland and Natasha Adams, age 25 of Bowie, Maryland with conspiracy to distribute and possess cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base, and money laundering offenses in the Salisbury, Maryland area between 1997 and 2003. Wallace and Adams are also charged with conspiracy to engage in monetary transactions, including the purchase of automobiles and a home, with drug proceeds.

The Wallace indictment alleges that Wallace used various locations in Salisbury, Bowie and

Rockville to store drugs, drug proceeds and drug paraphernalia. The following items were recovered from locations associated with Wallace and Adams: approximately 8 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride, drug paraphernalia including a money counting machine and a scale, approximately \$136,720, and jewelry valued in excess of \$106,000.

The maximum sentence for conspiracy to distribute the drugs and for possession with intent to distribute drugs in Counts 1,3,4,6 and 8 of the Seldon indictment and Counts 1, 3 and 5 of the Wallace indictment is life imprisonment and a fine of \$4,000,000. The maximum sentence for the possession with intent to distribute drugs in Count 10 of the Seldon indictment is 40 years imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000,000 and 5 years supervised release. The maximum sentence for the distribution and possession of drugs charges contained in Counts 5, 7, and 11 of the Seldon indictment and Counts 2 and 4 of the Wallace indictment is imprisonment for 20 years, a fine of \$1,000,000, and supervised release for 5 years. The maximum penalty for conspiracy to launder money is 20 years in prison, a fine of \$500,000, and 5 years of supervised release in the Seldon indictment and 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and 3 years supervised release in the Wallace indictment. Ronald Seldon is also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon for which the maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 and 3 years of supervised release. There is no possibility of parole under any of the sentences. The government also seeks a forfeiture award of up to \$2,000,000 based on the quantity of the drugs distributed during the conspiracy. No date has been set for the defendants' appearance for arraignment on the charges.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in both indictments are the result of a joint investigation by: the Drug

Enforcement Administration, Baltimore District Office and Salisbury Duty Station; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Salisbury Office; the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation; the Dorchester County Drug Task Force; the Somerset County Drug Task Force; the Wicomico County Drug Task Force; and the United States Attorney's Office. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Angela White and Christine Manuelian.